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FILE ONLY

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Contra Training in U.S.

RATHER: With U.S. military aid now once again flowing openly to the Nicaraguan Contras, the Reagan Administration is setting up a military training program for the guerilla fighters in this country.

DAVID MARTIN: Informed sources tell CBS News the Pentagon has developed a plan to secretly train Contra rebels at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. Eglin is currently used to train U.S. Army rangers in jungle warfare. It is also home base for the Air Force's Special Operations Wing which would train the Contras in aerial resupply, a crucial part of any effort to send guerillas deep inside Nicaraguan territory.

Most of the estimated 20,000 Contra soldiers would still be trained at their own

camps inside Honduras, but they would be trained by soldiers who have been through the Eglin course. The training is part of the \$100 million in aid Congress approved for the Contras after a two-year cut off in all but humanitarian items, such as medicine and clothing. The \$100 million will also buy new weapons, including heat-seeking antiaircraft missiles to be used against the Sandinistas growing helicopter force.

U.S. intelligence sources say that earlier this month Soviet freighters unloaded six crates believed to contain Hind helicopter gun ships, which would double the number in the Sandinista arsenal.

The plan to train at Eglin has not yet been formally approved, but Administration officials say it has to be in the U.S. because no Central American country will allow the training to take place on their territory.

✓ David Martin, CBS News, the Pentagon.